

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 have been examined, and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claims 4-41 have been withdrawn as being directed to non-elected claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,853,801 to Suga et al. ("Suga").

A. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, claim 1 recites that dust is removed from an orientation layer with a liquid to which the orientation layer is insoluble. The orientation layer is then polished using a polishing member whose surface is moistened or impregnated with the liquid.

The Examiner maintains that Suga discloses the claimed invention. For example, Suga discloses a process for preparing a continuous optical compensatory sheet (col. 1, lines 7-10). As shown in Fig. 1, a transparent film having a transparent resin layer 4b is subjected to a rubbing treatment to impart an orientation property to the resin layer to form an orientation layer (col. 8, lines 48-51). A dust removing machine 9 is then used to remove dust from a surface of the orientation layer (col. 8, lines 54-56). The reference discloses that the removal of dust can be accomplished through use of a solvent spray (col. 12, lines 1-14).

Nevertheless, Suga fails to teach or suggest that after the dust removal step, the orientation layer is polished using a polish member that is moistened or impregnated with the liquid used during the dust removal step.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Suga fails to teach or suggest each and every feature recited in claim 1, and respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

B. Claims 2 and 3

Since claims 2 and 3 are dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Newly Added Claims

Applicant has added claims 42-46 to provide more varied protection for the present invention. Applicant submits that claims 42-46 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/851,416

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER


Allison M. Tulino
Registration No. 48,294

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